

MASSACHUSETTS.

MEMORIAL

FROM

CITIZENS OF MIDDLESEX CO., MASSACHUSETTS,

IN FAVOR

Of Protecting the Industry of the Farmer, Mechanic, and Manufacturer.

FEBRUARY 5, 1833.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Middlesex County Meeting.

At a meeting of citizens from various parts of Middlesex county, in favor of protecting the industry of the farmer, mechanic, and manufacturer, held agreeably to public notice in the town hall of Charlestown, Hon. DANIEL RICHARDSON, of Tyngsboro', was called to the chair; Daniel Shattuck, of Concord, and Wm. W. Wheildon, of Charlestown, were appointed Secretaries.

The object of the meeting having been stated by the chairman, a committee was appointed to report resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. The committee reported the following:

Whereas the Congress of the United States, contemplating the approaching period of the extinguishment of the public debt, and desirous of allaying the feelings of discontent which the pressure of the public burdens (however equally distributed) had produced in certain sections of the Union, did in July last, with great deliberation, and in the spirit of compromise, pass a law materially reducing the duties on imports, whereby the protection afforded to various branches of native industry were, to a considerable extent, withdrawn. And whereas that portion of the people whose interests were most deeply affected thereby, have proved themselves ready to abide the issue of that experiment, and to acquiesce in a measure which, recognizing the vital principle of protection, was calculated to restore harmony, and to cement the bonds of the National Union. And whereas a single State, no otherwise interested than as bearing in common her fair proportion of the public expenditure, has arrayed herself against the nation, and, deluded by a

mistaken theory, has assumed the right of arresting within her limits the operation of the laws. And whereas it is highly important that the voice of the people should be distinctly heard at a crisis when silence might be construed into acquiescence: Therefore, as the expression of the opinion of this meeting of the farmers, mechanics, manufacturers, merchants, and citizens, of the county of Middlesex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts—

Resolved, That the principle of protecting every branch of native industry, by a suitable adjustment of the duties on imports, is coeval with the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and has been extended alike to the agriculture, commerce, fisheries, mines, arts, and manufactures, of the United States, so long as was necessary to secure each from danger of foreign competition.

Resolved, That the abandonment of this principle, unaccompanied by a simultaneous and similar change of policy on the part of all foreign nations, would prostrate the resources, and paralyze the industry of the free citizens of this republic, and reduce them to a state of worse than colonial vassalage.

Resolved, That we approve of the sentiments contained in the late proclamation of the President of the United States, and in his more recent message to Congress; and that, in the performance of the high duties now devolved upon him, he should receive the cordial and unwavering support of every friend of the great principles of our National Union.

Resolved, That any action by Congress upon the subject of the tariff, pending the hostile attitude assumed by South Carolina, is earnestly deprecated by us as inconsistent with a calm survey of the rights and interests of the great body of the people, as derogatory to the dignity of the Government, and as virtually conceding to menace and disaffection what reason and constitutional remonstrance have failed to establish.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, signed by the chairman and secretaries, be forwarded to the Senators and Representatives of this State in Congress, through the representative of Middlesex district, to be by them presented to their respective bodies.

These resolutions were read, and unanimously adopted.

DANL. RICHARDSON, *Chairman*.

DANIEL SHATTUCK, }
WM. W. WHEILDON, } *Secretaries.*